



# CONNECTIONS

Summer 2010

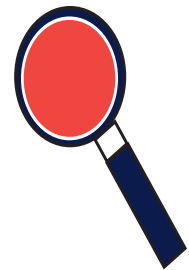
*Serving Scott County*

- Belle Plaine
- Blakeley
- Credit River
- Elko
- Lydia
- Jordan
- Marystown
- New Market
- New Prague
- Prior Lake
- Savage
- Shakopee
- St. Benedict
- St. Patrick
- Belle Plaine Township
- Blakeley Township
- Cedar Lake Township
- Credit River Township
- Helena Township
- Jackson Township
- Louisville Township
- New Market Township
- Sand Creek Township
- Spring Lake Township
- St. Lawrence Township

A mystery is defined as a profound, inexplicable, or secretive quality that baffles or perplexes. While the definition is seemingly negative, most people are fascinated by mysteries. We all want to know the who, what, where, and why odd and sometimes gruesome things occur.

The Scott County Historical Society's newest exhibit ***Great Scott! Mysteries of Scott County*** explores a few of the county's mysteries, many of which remain unsolved today.

## GREAT SCOTT!



## MYSTERIES OF SCOTT COUNTY

Through stories, photographs, artifacts, and hands-on interactives we will delve into questions such as...

- where Dan Patch is buried,
- why holes were being dug on a farm in Belle Plaine in the 1950s,
- whether an earthquake struck New Prague in 1860,
- whose body was found in the Minnesota River, and
- just how many ghosts, goblins, and other spooky folks are roaming around the county!

Come enjoy a hauntingly good time at the "***Great Scott! Mysteries of Scott County***" exhibit opening on Thursday, June 17. Michael Norman, author of The Nearly Departed: Minnesota Ghost Stories & Legends, will present a talk and book signing beginning at 6:30pm. One chapter of his book discusses a mystery of "flying dirt" in Lydia during the 1940s. Copies of The Nearly Departed will also be available for purchase that evening. The "***Great Scott! Mysteries of Scott County***" exhibit runs from June 17 through December 18, 2010.

### Inside Connections

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Mark your calendar to attend the SCHS "***1940s Hanger Dance***" fundraiser Sat., September 25. Big Band music, great food, live entertainment,... tons of fun! More details coming this summer.

## From the Director's Chair

By Kathleen Klehr

Summer is on its way and we are ready with a calendar chock full of fun events, exhibit openings, festival treats and more. Clip the event calendar on page 7 for your fridge!

I am pleased to announce that we are expanding our participation in the Scott County Library's annual summer *Kids Read* program. Thanks to the Scott County Library's Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage (Legacy), funding we are able to offer four different crafts at each library throughout the county. Additionally, the library's Legacy funding is supporting the installation of a new permanent exhibit at the Prior Lake Library. We are grateful these funds are available to strengthen our relationship with the library system as well as further our mission.

Legacy funds are also hard at work at the SCHS in developing the Scott County WWII veteran's book. Work is proceeding on track to write, edit and index the book, and secure photographs. Look for more news on the book's availability in our fall newsletter. If you want to make sure you receive one, give us a call to get on our book reservation list. (952-445-0378 - price TBD.)

This summer we are again hosting college interns. Brandon Henderson from the University of Minnesota will work on exhibits, and Justin Hitch from Gustavus Adolphus College will work in collections. This year we created a hybrid internship; Soren Hoeger-Lerdal, also from Gustavus Adolphus College, will work on events and programs - including planning, volunteer recruitment, marketing, and delivery of programs. Along with their specific topic, each intern will participate in the research and creation of our new central gallery exhibit on Scott County's Greatest Generation. Please stop by and welcome them to SCHS.

By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox the Saint John's Bible Print exhibit will have returned to St. John's University in Collegeville. It was great fun and highly informative to host this incredible exhibit of artistic prints. What intrigued us was the ancient artistic crafts used to create the

pages. The exhibit was also very popular as attendance jumped and we booked five guided tours during its short run. With this success, we will consider booking other traveling exhibits in the future.

I thank you for your continued membership support. Please share this newsletter with friends and family and encourage them to join the SCHS family!

At the May SCHS Board of Directors meeting the board appointed Paul N. Youngs to fill an open position on our board. Paul Youngs is a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones in Shakopee. It is a great pleasure to welcome Paul to our board. As an appointee, he will stand for election along with other interested individuals at our October Annual Meeting.

The Scott County Historical Society / Stans Museum board of directors are discussing the following amendments to the SCHS bylaws for membership vote at the October Annual Meeting. We welcome your comments in this discussion.

Bylaws committee is discussing the following amendments to: increase the size of the board of directors; allow for a more democratic and representative membership vote; increase the number of terms / director; and clarify the type of audit required.

1) Article IV, section 2: **Five Seven** members of the Board of Directors shall be elected **at the annual meeting** by **mailed** ballot by the membership, for a three-year term and shall hold office until their successors have been elected and duly qualified. **Board of Director candidates shall declare their candidacy through a letter of interest and qualifications no later than September 1.** No person shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors for more than **two three** consecutive three-year terms (**6 9** years).

2) Article VI, section 4: The books shall be audited and a report submitted to the membership, every third year starting July 2008, additional audits at Board's discretion.

**(February 12, 2010 - May 5, 2010)**

**THANK YOU New and Renewing MEMBERS! Business - \$100:**

Shakopee Heritage Society

**Sponsor - \$50:**

Tom Dubbe  
Gordon and Margaret Eischens  
Patricia and Gary Kahnke

**Household - \$25:**

Tom and Patty Daly  
Mike and Patricia Huber  
Tom and Ann Klotz  
Carol and Richard Majerus  
Raymond and Elizabeth Marschall  
Lawrence and Phyllis Martin  
Irene and Gregory Powers  
Duane Sivanish  
Paul and Kirsti Youngs  
Pam Killian and Don Taylor

**Individual - \$15:**

Frances Bohlke  
Betty Dols  
Margaret Elftmann  
Roberta Everling  
Thomas Furst  
Deanna Geer  
Carol Hartmann  
Paul Johnson  
Evelyn Kjos  
Rita Lundgren  
Virginia Meyer  
Jeff Miller  
Carol Oeltjenbruns  
Jennifer Planting  
Charlene Scheffler  
Nancy Schmit  
Patricia Schroers  
Perry Seamans  
Mary Wichmann

*SCHS strives to ensure our member and donor lists are accurate. We sincerely apologize if your name was missed. Please let us know so we may make a correction.*

**THANK YOU to Our Donors for Their Generous Support.**

**Leader - \$1,000 +:**  
Cargill, Inc.

**Patron - \$500-\$999:**

**Sponsor - \$250 - \$499:**  
Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

**Advocate - \$100 - \$249:**

**Booster - \$50 - \$99:**  
Brookwood Community Church

**Other:**

Joseph and Carolyn Kinney  
Ivy Merriot  
Rose Patchen  
Charlene Scheffler

**In-Kind:**

Cub Foods  
Sam's Club  
Richard and Carol Majerus

The Society is looking for financial sponsorship for the following:

- 1) **Hanger Dance** (Sept. 25)
- 2) **Hero's Among Us: Scott County WWII Vets** exhibit (Fall 2010)
- 3) **Entry fees** for City Festivals & Scott County Fair. (Summer 2010)

If you are interested in any of the above sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kathy at 952-445-0378.

Sponsorships are recognized in marketing materials, at the specific event or exhibit, and in our newsletter and annual report.

**SCHS WISH LIST**

The following items would make wonderful in-kind donations! Contact us at 952-445-0378, info@scottcountyhistory.org, or stop by!

- \* 8' Conference table
- \* LCD Projector
- \* Copy paper
- \* Cleaning supplies

THANK YOU to Carol and Richard Majerus for donating a greatly needed step ladder and making a wish come true.

*It would be great if every member of the Society would recruit a new member in 2010. Not only would it help the Society, but it would introduce the fascinating history of Scott County to more people.*

## Curator Corner

### The Story of an Artifact:

#### Postal Savings Plan Booklet

Savings bonds are debt securities used by governments to remove money from circulation and help reduce inflation. Their main purpose, however, is financing wars. The first bonds issued by the United States were sold in 1776 to pay for the Revolutionary War. Bonds were made available again to finance the War of 1812, the Civil War and the Spanish-American War. During those times, many of the bonds were purchased by banks, businesses and other groups looking for investments. They largely were not advertised for or bought by average Americans.

When the United States became involved in World War I the government urged all Americans to buy war bonds. Calling them “Liberty Bonds,” advertising campaigns tied patriotism and a call to duty with the purchase of a bond. The government raised \$21.5 billion for the war effort but, again, a majority of the bonds were bought by banks and financial groups. Bond campaigns did not gain much widespread public support and most Americans, basically unfamiliar with war bonds, were unwilling to use their savings to buy them.

That situation changed drastically during World War II. After Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, the United States began issuing new bonds called Defense Bonds. Defense Bonds were sold at 75% of their face value in denominations of \$25 - \$10,000. The attack on Pearl Harbor combined with America’s dislike of the Nazi and Fascist parties then in power in Europe, caused bond sales to soar. The government undertook massive advertising campaigns to sell bonds and bond rallies with famous Hollywood celebrities were held around the country. Additionally, businesses donated free advertising and free goods for bonds, movie theaters offered free entrances with bond purchases and sports teams opened up free seats

with bond purchases. For most Americans buying Defense Bonds was a common occurrence and doing so gave people on the home front a moral and financial stake in the war. After World War II ended, the government determined that over 85 million Americans - more than half the population - had purchased bonds totaling \$185.7 billion.



This Defense Bond savings plan booklet was used by Harriet Schmitt of Shakopee during World War II. The booklet was obtained from the Post Office, which also sold stamps in denominations as low as ten cents. The stamps were then pasted inside the booklet until it was full giving people unable to buy a bond immediately a way to save up for one. This booklet held ten cent stamps and, once full, would have been redeemed for a \$25 Defense Bond. The booklet will be on display at the end of September in the SCHS’s upcoming exhibit *Heroes Among Us: Scott County’s WWII Vets*.

## Crazy Quilters

**The Scott County Crazy Quilters take the summer off. Mark your calendar to join in the stitching fun on the fourth Thursday in September.**

## Green Thumbs Wanted

If you enjoy fresh air, sunshine, and the satisfaction of pulling a weed out by the root, then consider volunteering in the Stans garden during the growing season. Please call the SCHS at 952-445-0378 or email at [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org).

**From the Collections Desk**

**THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS, MORE HISTORY SAVED, PRESERVED, SHARED**

- Clothing and an umbrella from the Colling family of Jordan donated by Kathy and George Colling.
- A 1970s era dress donated by Priscilla Larsen.
- Postcard of Mudcura dropped off anonymously.
- Booklet titled “Anti-Slavery Presbyterians in the Dakota Mission” donated by Jeff Williamson.
- World War II Navy uniform and savings bond booklet along with a baptismal gown donated by Harriet Pink.
- Photograph and booklet from the Shakopee High School Class of 1943’s 50th reunion donated by Bonita Casber.
- Calendar and cloth fragment commemorating Prior Lake’s downtown grand re-opening in 2004 donated by Sandi Andersen.
- Booklet titled “Church of Saint Nicholas; New Market, Minnesota; Celebrating 150 Years” donated by the Church of Saint Nicholas.
- Hand drawn map and two books produced by Paul Durand donated by Ray Kruger.
- Postcards of Boiling Springs and Belle Plaine along with a handbill advertising Boiling Springs donated by Shirley Widman.
- Booklet titled “St. Benedict Parish; 150th Anniversary, 1859-2009” donated by Terry Holzer.

- Writing pad advertising Walden Bros. Lumber donated by Richard and Carol Majerus.
- Jacob Ries Bottling Works bottle donated by Joel DeMaris.
- Ashtray advertising Abeln’s Bar and two photographs of Shakopee donated by Diane Annen.



If you are interested in submitting an article for *Connections*, please contact Kathy at 952-445-0378 or [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org). Articles should be approximately 400 words, include a photo (if possible), and relate to Scott County History.

***Donations help to tell our story. Please consider donating items to help fill in the gaps in the SCHS collection. Give us a call. We accept most items that have a Scott County connection.***

## *From the Research Library by Betty Dols*

It has been said that “death is part of life” and so it is.. Scott County has many fine cemeteries and more than a few claim to be the oldest. In 1988, Wiley Pope published Minnesota Cemeteries which gave the legal description of each of Minnesota’s Cemeteries including Scott County.

**Belle Plaine** has 6 cemeteries; Mount Mariah, a small fenced Christian cemetery in sec.5, no longer used, oldest stone 1858. Transfiguration is Protestant Episcopal next to the Church of Transfiguration in downtown Belle Plaine, established 1862, oldest stone 1863. Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, 1862, and St. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery, 1871, are both in sec. 6 and have been combined under the new name of Our Lady of The Prairie. Oakwood, 1863 is a fairly large non denominational cemetery in sec. 1. The oldest stone is 1861. The Lutheran Home Cemetery wasn’t established until 1900.

**Blakeley Twp.** has 3; Old St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran in Sec. 8, 16 stones remaining. Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Cemetery in sec. 34 next to the church of the same name, also known as Freidrichs Church. Established in 1855, oldest remaining stone 1865. Zion Methodist Cemetery, also known as Schlegel, in sec. 32 was established in 1859, oldest stone is 1865.

**Cedar Lake Twp.** has 1, St. Patrick’s Catholic in Sec. 17, next to the church established in 1857. The oldest stone is 1862.

**Credit River Twp.** has 1, in part of sec. 7 & 8, St. Peter’s Catholic Cemetery est. in 1860, the oldest stone is 1863. The church is no longer there.

**Glendale Twp** has 2; Glendale Cemetery is a non-denominational in sec. 18, est. in 1865, the oldest stone is 1866. St. John The Baptist Catholic Cemetery in sec. 19 (part of cemetery is in sec.15 in Dakota Co) was established in 1859, the oldest stone is 1854 (moved from Teepee Hill).

**Helena Twp.** has 3; St. Benedict’s Catholic Cemetery in sec.17 behind the church, established in 1861 and the oldest stone is 1859 (may have been moved). St. Wenceslaus Catholic Cemetery in sec. 34 City of New Prague was established in 1883 and the oldest stone is 1881. Czech National in sec. 33 on the west side of New Prague is non-denominational, started in

1882 and the oldest stone is 1882.

**Louisville Twp.** has St. Mary of The Purification next to the church in sec. 35. Established in 1856 and the oldest stone is dated 1856.

**New Market Twp.** has 2; West Christinania Lutheran in sec. 13 on the Dakota Co. border and St. Nicholas Catholic in sec.28. Established in 1861, the oldest stone is also 1861.

**Sand Creek Twp.** has 3; St. Joseph’s Catholic in sec. 23 was established in 1860 and the oldest remaining stone is dated 1861. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in sec. 20 is actually up the hill behind St. John The Baptist Catholic Church in downtown Jordan. Established in 1855, the oldest marker is 1862. Spirit Hill Cemetery in sec. 19 in Jordan is non-denominational and was established in 1860 with the oldest stone dated 1861.

**Shakopee** has 3; Two are listed in **Eagle Creek Twp.** Valley Public Cemetery in sec. 5 in the east end of Shakopee is non-denominational. Established in 1857, the oldest stone is 1858. Calvary Catholic Cemetery (Old St. Marks) in sec.8 in SE Shakopee was started in 1856 and the oldest stone is also 1856. The third is Catholic Cemetery, formerly St. Mary’s founded in the 1930’s and St. Mark’s second cemetery started in 1877 where the oldest stone is 1876 (probably moved from Calvary).

**Spring Lake Twp.** has 6; St. Catherine’s Catholic in sec. 35 next to the church of the same name was established in 1866 and the oldest stone is also 1866. Concord Methodist Cemetery of Lydia in sec. 29 was established in 1856 and the oldest stone is 1861. Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery of Fish Lake in sec.28 was started in 1871 and the oldest stone is dated 1876. Spring Lake Public in sec. 3 was established in 1863 and the oldest stone is 1863. St. Michael’s Catholic Cemetery and St. Paul’s Lutheran are side by side in sec. 1. I have no further information on them. Since we know the first settlers arrived in 1852-3-4, surely some of them died before 1855. What happened to them? In the country, they were often buried on the farm. I suspect some were buried in the cemeteries before they were formally established.

We have transcripts of most of these cemeteries in the research library at the Scott County Historical Society.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS - EVENTS

For additional information call 952-445-0378 or  
email [info@scottcountyhistory.org](mailto:info@scottcountyhistory.org)



### June

**Meridian Street Walking Tour** on Sat., June 5 at 9:00am. Enjoy a guided walking tour of historical Meridian Street in downtown Belle Plaine. Registrations required. Small fee applies.

**-Family Trees for Kids** at the Savage Library on Tues., June 15 at 1:30pm - at the Belle Plaine Library on Thurs., June 17 at 2:00pm. FREE! Contact the Library for more information.

**-Exhibit opening "Great Scott! Mysteries of Scott County"** on Thurs., June 17 at 6:00pm. Talk and book signing with Michael Norman, author of *The Nearly Departed: Minnesota Ghost Stories & Legends*, at 6:30pm. Copies of *The Nearly Departed* will also be available for purchase that evening. General Admission, FREE for SCHS Members.

**-Family Trees for Kids** at the Prior Lake Library on Tues., June 22 at 10:30am. FREE! Contact the Prior Lake Library for more information.



**Behind the Scenes Tour** on Tues., June 22 at 7pm. Explore the nooks and crannies of the SCHS collections storage areas. Standing, walking and climbing stairs are part of this program. Register through Shakopee Community Education. Small fee applies.

**-4<sup>th</sup> of July Fans for Kids** at the Jordan Library on Thurs., June 24 at 10:30am - at Sand Point Park City Playground on Tues., June 29 at 1:00pm FREE! Contact the Library for more information.

### July

**-4<sup>th</sup> of July Fans for Kids** at the Belle Plaine Library on Thurs., July 1 at 2:30pm. FREE! Contact the Library for more information.

**-Corn Husk Dolls for Kids** at the New Prague Library on Tues., July 6 at 10:30am - at the Jordan Library on Thurs., July 8 at 10:30am. FREE! Contact the Library for more information.

**-Water Street Walking Tour** on Saturday, July 10 at 9:00am. Enjoy a walking tour of historical Water Street in downtown Jordan. Register through Jordan Comm. Ed. Small fee.



**-Corn Husk Dolls for Kids** at the Savage Library on Tues., July 13 at 1:30am - at the Shakopee Library on Thurs., July 15 at 10:30am - at the Elko New Market Library on Wed., July 21 at 1:30pm. FREE! Contact the Library for more information.

**-Seed Art for Kids** at the New Prague Library on Thurs., July 22 at 1:30pm. FREE! Contact the New Prague Library for more information.

**-Scott County Fair**, July 28-Aug. 1. See you at the fair!

### August

**-Seed Art for Kids** at the Elko New Market Library on Wed., August 4 at 1:30pm - at the Prior Lake Library on Tues., August 10 at 10:30am. FREE! Contact the Library for more information.

**-Derby Days Ice Cream Social** on Fri.& Sat Aug. 6-7.

**-Main Street Walking Tour** on Sat., Aug. 7 at 9am. Enjoy a walking tour of historical Main Street in downtown New Prague. Register through New Prague Community Education. Small fee applies.



**-Seed Art for Kids** at the Savage Library on Thurs., August 12 at 10:30am - at the Shakopee Library on Thurs., August 12 at 1:30pm. FREE! Contact the Savage Library for more information.

**-Author Talk and book signing** with Frank Shima on Thurs., Aug. 12 at 6:30pm. Shima's book *Dead Letter* is a fictional murder mystery set in small town Minnesota. Copies of *Dead Letter* will be available for purchase that evening. General Admission fees, FREE for SCHS Members.

**-Behind the Scenes Tour** on Tues., Aug. 17 at 7pm.

Explore the nooks and crannies of the SCHS collections storage areas including the museum's basement and the second floor of the Stans House. Standing, walking and climbing stairs are part of this program. Register through Prior Lake-Savage Community Education. Small fee applies.



**- Pond Mission Site Event**, Sun, Aug. 22, 12:30 - 3pm. First Person presentation, historic site information, food & more

**- Hanger Dance Fundraiser**, September 25



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 Fax: 952-445-4154  
 info@scottcountyhistory.org  
 www.scottcountyhistory.org



Hours:  
 T, W, F 9am - 4pm  
 Th 9am - 8pm  
 Sat 10am - 3pm  
 Closed: Sunday, Monday and  
 Major Holidays

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**Your Membership and Donation dollars at work!**



**Kids Kraft - hands-on Family Fun!**



**Saint John's Bible Print Exhibit**



**Traditional Woodworking Workshop**

***SCHS Membership Application***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to:* Scott County Historical Society,  
 235 Fuller Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379

YES! I would like to support SCHS at the following level (please check one).

- Individual Member.....\$ 15
- Household Member.....\$ 25
- Sponsor Member.....\$ 50
- Business Member.....\$100
- Booster Donor.....\$50-\$99
- Advocate Donor.....\$100-\$249
- Sponsor Donor.....\$250-\$499
- Patron Donor.....\$500-\$999
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*Please make checks out to:* Scott County Historical Society